

Message Text

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44

ACTION AID-05

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 ISO-00 EB-07 IGA-02 XMB-02 OMB-01 TRSE-00

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R 061424Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7253

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: BEXP, OEXC, GB

SUBJ: INFORMATIQUE DELEGATION

REF: A. LIBREVILLE 2006 AND PREVIOUS

B. STATE 283987

1. EMBOFF DISCUSSED INFORMATIQUE US VISIT WITH DELEGATION HEAD LOUIS INGONGUI JAN. 4. INGONGUI REPORTED VISIT IN GLOWING TERMS AND LISTED AMONG OTHER POSITIVE RESULTS FOLLOWING:

A. AID OFFER TO ARRANGE FIVE SCHOLARSHIPS FOR GABONESE IN US UNIVERSITIES TO STUDY VARIOUS DISCIPLINES RELATED TO COMPUTER SCIENCE. AID WILL PAY STUDENT MAINTENANCE AND FIND UNIVERSITIES WILLING TO GIVE TUITION SCHOLARSHIPS TO GABONESE.

B. AID OFFER TO "FURNISH" AUDIO VISUAL EQUIPMENT TO BE USED IN TRAINING COMPUTER OPERATORS AND TECHNICIANS IN GABON AS WELL AS INSTRUCTION TO GABONESE OPERATORS OF AUDIO VISUAL EQUIPMENT.

C. EXIM BANK OFFER TO PARTICIPATE IN FINANCING OF "ANY AMOUNT" OF COMPUTER HARDWARE/SOFTWARE PURCHASED IN US.

2. INGONGUI ALSO LISTED OFFERS FROM IBM AND OTHER CONTACTS DURING VISIT TO TRAIN GABONESE IN US. SUBSEQUENT CHECK WITH IBM LIBREVILLE MANAGER ILLE CONFIRMED AT LEAST THEORETICAL POSSIBILITY OF IBM'S ACCEPTING GABONESE IN THEIR WATSON RESEARCH CENTER IN NEW YORK AND FEDERAL SYSTEMS CENTER IN MARYLAND.

HOWEVER, TRAINING PRESUMABLY WOULD BE AT GOG EXPENSE AND ILLE
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DOUBTFUL ANY GABONESE AVAILABLE WITH SUITABLE QUALIFICATIONS.

3. INFORMATIQUE COMMITTEE MEETING JAN. 5 TO DRAFT REPORT OF US VISIT FOR PRESIDENT BONG WITH RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FOLLOW-UP BY GOG. ACCORDING ILLE, FRENCH TECHNICAL ADVISOR MAILHET WILL WRITE COMMITTEE REPORT AND AS RESULT IT SHOULD BE MORE ACCURATE AND PRACTICAL DOCUMENT THEN INGONGUI'S VERBAL REPORT OF TRIP SUGGESTS.

4. WHEN BONGO REACHES DECISIONS ON ACTION RECOMMENDED IN REPORT INGONGUI SAYS HE WILL SEND LETTER REQUESTED BY AID THROUGH EMBASSY REPLYING TO "OFFERS" LISTED IN PARA 1.

5. INGONGUI OBVIOUSLY UNDER DIFFERENT IMPRESSION THAN THAT CONVEYED TO EMBASSY BY AID IN REFTEL B. ACTION REQUESTED: PLEASE ADVISE UNDERSTANDING BY AID WASHINGTON AND EXIM BANK OF RESULTS OF INFORMATIQUE DELEGATION VISIT. IF APPROPRIATE, THEIR POINT OF VIEW CAN BE PASSED ON TO MAILHET TO HELP SHAPE COMMITTEE REPORT IN EFFORT TO AVOID GOG MISUNDERSTANDING OF US INTENTIONS. STEIGMAN

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 06 JAN 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: morefirh
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976LIBREV00022
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760003-1222
From: LIBREVILLE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760184/aaaacwhu.tel
Line Count: 80
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION AID
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 LIBREVILLE 2006
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: morefirh
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 23 JUN 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <23 JUN 2004 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <25 JUN 2004 by morefirh>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: INFORMATIQUE DELEGATION
TAGS: BEXP, OEXC, GB, (INGONGUI, LOUIS)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006